11-15 a.m. SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I ask if the reply of the Hon. Minister is based on an inquiry made through the Superintendent of the Jail? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The inquiry was made through the Inspector-General of Prisons, and I have got the information here."

SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI :—" May I know whether the Government are aware of the atrocities committed by Captain Raghunathan, Superintendent of the Salem Central Jail, against the prisoners and, if so, what steps the Government propose to take to stop such atrocities? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether any representations have been received from the prisoners of Cannanore Central Jail? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are now in the Salem Jail. (Laughter.) The hon. Member may put a separate question."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" We are in the Assembly Hall, Sir."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" May I know whether the Government have received mass petitions from the mothers of certain prisoners of the Malapattam village making certain demands including transfer of the prisoners to Cannanore Central Jail? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The question is being considered by me, Sir."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" In view of the fact that there has been lot of complaints from Salem Jail, and in view of the fact that the prisoners there have resorted to hunger-strikes quite a number of times, will the Government take steps to transfer them to some other jails or send them to their respective provincial jails? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The allegations about hunger-strike and other things have been found to be not true. Their representations for transferring them to jails in their own areas are under consideration of the Government and the Government will issue orders soon."

Leasing of lands under Malabar Tenancy Act.

* 110 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many out of the 18 and odd lakhs of acres of cultivable waste lands in Malabar belong to (1) Government and (2) private janmis;

(*b*) what extent of such lands has been made available to ryots under section 52-B of the Malabar Tenancy Act; and

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(c) how many acres of Government waste lands have been leased to ryots in Kottayam, Chirakkal and Kurumbranad? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

" (a) In Malabar, all unoccupied land is presumed to belong to some private owner until the contrary is shown. The information required is not readily available.

" (b) So far, no waste land has been leased out under Section 52-B of the Malabar Tenancy Act.

" (c) The question does not arise."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR:—" May I know whether the Government have inherited property to the extent of thousands of acres as escheat and whether these are still remaining uncultivated? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

" The officer appointed to take action under this Section has not yet begun to function."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the Government have no statistics with regard to at least the lands which are in their possession and if so, what steps they propose to take to collect these statistics so that the lands in their possession might be made available to the ryots? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

" The extent of cultivable waste lands is 561,000 and odd acres and the extent of forest lands is 616,000 and odd acres. Whether those lands are in the possession of the Government or in the possession of private owners, is not yet known."

DR. K. B. MENON:—" May I know whether the Government have received very many applications for these waste lands, and how many of them have been rejected by them? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

" There may be very many applications. The whole question will be gone into."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—" May I know why the Government have not taken steps to implement Section 52-B of the Malabar Tenancy Act till now? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

" The amended Act came into force on 15th March 1952, but the Government have not yet delegated the powers under the Section mentioned by the hon. Member to any Officer. Consequently, no waste lands have yet been leased out under Section 52-B."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister how many applications were received from the Harijans for these waste lands? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—

" Will not the hon. Member sympathise with me if I say ' I require notice? ' "

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" In view of the fact that food equivalent to six days' ration only is produced at present in North Malabar, and also in view of the fact that out of the 18 lakhs acres of cultivable waste lands, only 0·7 per cent has been brought under cultivation within the last five years, will the Hon. Minister give us an assurance that if at all there is any land under the direct control of the Government, it will be immediately leased out to those ryots who are prepared to till the soil? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :— " With regard to 18 lakhs of acres, it is the figure given by the Hon. Member. The correct figure is the one that I have just now given, viz., five lakhs and odd acres of cultivable waste lands and six lakhs and odd acres of forest lands. With regard to the question of leasing out the land, Government will take action as early as possible."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" I wish to give some information to the Hon. Minister. In a Government publication called 'Achievements in the last five years in Malabar' sent to me as M.L.A., it is mentioned that 1,829,937 acres are cultivable waste lands, and I know personally that a good portion of it is now possessed by the Government under the management of an Estate Manager of the grade of a Special Tahsildar."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is only giving information."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" No, Sir; I wish to put a question to the Hon. Minister. In view of the facts given out in that Government publication to the effect that there are waste lands to the extent of about 18 lakhs acres under the management of a Special Tahsildar, may I know whether the Hon. Minister will correct his statement that there are only 5 lakhs acres of cultivable waste lands, whether he would care to ascertain what is the correct extent of cultivable waste lands in Malabar, and how many acres are directly in the possession of the Government? Secondly, may I also know whether the Government will take immediate steps to enforce Section 52-B of the Malabar Tenancy Act and compel the janmis to lease out the cultivable waste lands to the ryots? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I have already answered that the Government have not yet delegated powers under Section 52-B to an Officer. As for expediting the leasing of lands, I may tell the hon. Member that I will take early steps. I will also enquire about the figures given by the hon. Member."

Centres for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination.

* 111 *Q.*—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU : Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state in how many schools there are S.S.L.C. Public Examination centres?